

E1
Cont

between the substantially intact hard constituent particles, wherein the voids extend to the composite portion; and

a wear resistant coating on the etched surface region and disposed in the voids.

Subj to CON

32

53. (Amended) The article of claim 50, wherein the hard constituent particles comprise one or more material selected form the group consisting of:

- a carbide material selected from the group consisting of tungsten carbide, titanium carbide, tantalum carbide, niobium carbide, vanadium carbide, chromium carbide, molybdenum carbide, and iron carbide;
- a carbonitride of a refractory metal;
- a nitride of a refractory metal;
- a carbonitride of an element selected from the group consisting of W, Ti, Ta, Nb, V, Cr, Mo, and Fe;
- an oxide of an element selected from the group consisting of aluminum, zirconium, and magnesium;
- a boride of an element selected from the group consisting of aluminum, zirconium, and magnesium;
- a material comprising molybdenum; and
- a material comprising tungsten.

32

54. (Amended) The article of claim 50, wherein the hard constituent particles comprise tungsten carbide and the binder comprises cobalt.